

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 23 No. 4

April 15, 1955

Whole No. 271

Reprints of the Merriwell Stories

by J. P. Guinon



Four Merriwell Reprints

Reprints of the Merriwell Stories

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(The Merriwell stories, in original and reprint forms, have been read and industriously collected for more than a half century, yet comparatively little information about them has been published, the most ambitious effort along this line being a 124-page book by John Levi Cutler, issued in 1934 by the University of Maine under the title of "Gilbert Patten and his Frank Merriwell Saga." With the idea of supplying some additional data on these celebrated tales, I have, with the valuable assistance of Bob McDowell of Jacksonville, Fla., one of the best-informed collectors of Merriwelliana, attempted this article. I would be glad to hear from Roundup readers who can furnish further details on the subject of the reprinting of the stories of Frank and Dick Merriwell, or any other interesting facts about those legendary characters and their creator, Gilbert Patten.)

In 1855 Francis S. Street, a writer for A. J. Williamson's New York Weekly, teamed up with Francis S. Smith to buy the periodical, and two, sealing their partnership with a handshake, began a long and successful career in the publishing business in New York City. The firm of Street & Smith displayed plenty of foresight,

initiative and aggressiveness in the years that followed, and a particularly outstanding example of its timely use of those qualities occurred in the latter nineties, when, realizing that five and ten cent novels and story papers, once one of their most profitable products, had, because of lowered quality, poor appearance and lack of good original story material, deteriorated to a point where they had lost most of their appeal to readers of such literature, Street & Smith conceived and carried out an idea that rejuvenated the dying novel industry for themselves and their competitors, and brought it back for an additional ten or fifteen years of life that were fully as successful as any of those that had gone before.

The result of that idea was the appearance on the newsstands of the country, on April 18, 1896, of the first of the Merriwell stories in Street & Smith's Tip Top Library, a five-cent weekly publication of thirty-two pages containing in handsome covers in full color, (a startling innovation in novels that made an immediate and tremendous hit) and featuring a new type of adventure story based on the exploits of an American schoolboy and his chums. The saga of Tip Top and the Merriwell brothers, and the revolution brought about by them in

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the novel business is, however, another story, and is only mentioned here for the purpose of supplying some pertinent background for this article.

Street & Smith then came up with another excellent idea that paid off nicely. This conception brought forth their Medal Library, the first issue of which appeared on January 28, 1899. In size it was about 4 x 6 inches, with 250 to 400 pages and heavy paper covers, similar to their Magnet Library, another successful venture that had been launched in 1897 to feature detective stories that were for the most part reprinted from dime novels of former years. However, the Medal Library was designed to furnish stories of a higher and much less lurid type than those appearing in the Magnet. It was published weekly, sold for ten cents, (until No. 379, when the price was boosted to fifteen cents and the name changed to New Medal Library,) and contained reprints of adventure stories of the better class by such established authors as Optic, Alger, Henty, Reid, and Jules Verne, all well known writers of respectable if probable fiction of the "light" variety. The list of authors also included the name of Gilbert Patten, who, at the time of the first appearance of the Medal Library, was writing the Merriwell stories for Street & Smith under the pseudonym of Burt L. Standish. Under his own name there appeared in the early numbers of Medal Library reprints of five of Patten's Western tales which had originally, in 1895, been written as serials for Good News, a weekly story paper published by Street & Smith for young people, and a few other titles by him under various pen names.

Patten's popularity as a writer of adventure stories for boys was solidly established by the time the Medal Library was three years old. Nearly 300 consecutive issues of his Merriwell tales in Tip Top Weekly had appeared, and they were going over big, leading the nickel novel field by a large and steadily increasing margin as their circulation mounted with

every number. To a smart firm like Street & Smith, of course, this situation was pregnant with possibilities, and now foaled their brightest idea of all, the reprinting of the Merriwell stories from Tip Top into the Medal Library. It was a natural, since the firm already owned the Merriwell copyrights and the material, consequently, would cost them nothing, not even a royalty to the author.

Accordingly "Frank Merriwell's Schooldays, a Tale of School Life at Fardale Academy", by Burt L. Standish, appeared in No. 150 of Medal Library early in 1902. This issue contained the first four Merriwell stories from Tip Top Library, and was followed several months later, in Medal Library No. 167, with the next four Tip Tops, under the title "Frank Merriwell's Chums." Then, in No. 178 of the Medal, issued in the late summer in 1902, came "Frank Merriwell's Foes", concluding the hero's school life at Fardale and starting him off on a trip through the United States as told in Tip Top Library Nos. 9 through 12. Six weeks later "Frank Merriwell's Trip West" came out in Medal Library No. 184, and from then until No. 356, with the exception of a short run from 217 to 225, a Merriwell story reprinted from Tip Tops appeared in every third, fourth or fifth issue of the Medal, or approximately once a month. Beginning with No. 359, every third Medal was composed of reprinted Tip Tops, and this schedule was maintained for a little over six years until, beginning with No. 682, the interval between Merriwell stories in the Medal Library was reduced to two weeks, except for the period during which the Medal reprinted in Nos. 832, 834, 836, 838, 840 and 842 the Owen Clancy stories from New Tip Top, which had temporarily dropped the Merriwells and was trying to put Clancy over as a new main character in an effort to regain for the weekly the popularity it lost when Patten quit writing the stories with No. 823. (Incidentally, this was one occasion, at least, when a Street & Smith idea went sour, as the efforts to replace the Merriwells with Owen

Clancy was a resounding bust, the echoes of which were still rumbling among the few remaining readers of New Tip Top when the weekly folded less than a year later.) Finally, beginning with No. 846, all of New Medal Library were reprints of New Tip Top Weekly until the library stopped publication on May 8, 1917, with No. 858, which number also included the last of the 986 issues of Tip Top and New Tip Top that had been printed in weekly form. Thus we have the interesting fact that the Medal Library, which started out to absorb the Merriwell tales from Tip Top, eventually was itself absorbed by these same tales.

The Merriwell stories, after the end of New Tip Top on March 6, 1915, with No. 136, continued without a break for another year, appearing regularly in Tip Top Semi-Monthly and Wide Awake Magazine, and, from 1927 to 1930, sporadically in Sport Story, Top Notch and Fortune, three other Street & Smith publications, but none of these stories were ever reprinted.

As long as Patten wrote them the popularity of the Merriwell stories seemed to increase with the Medal reprintings, so much so that about thirty of these reprintings were brought out in cloth-bound editions by A. L. Burt and David McCay, two New York publishers, between 1915 and 1925. Also the first 39 issues of the Medal Library containing Merriwell stories were reissued in that library, using the same catalog numbers, but adding new covers with interesting and attractive illustrations and raising the price to 15¢. These Merriwell reprints were probably the only Medals to be so honored by the publishers, who were well aware that they had a very good thing indeed in these reprinted tales from Tip Top.

Tip Top itself, until Patten quit writing for it in 1910 shortly before it was re-titled New Tip Top, continued to be extremely popular, leading all other publications of its type and adding more readers with each new issue, most of whom became ar-

dent fans who wanted to read of the earlier adventures of the Merriwell brothers. These enthusiasts were informed by the publishers, by means of full-page ads appearing regularly in Tip Top, that the early issues of the weekly could no longer be supplied in the original form, but that reprints were available in the New Medal Library.

When the Medal ended its career with the 986th Tip Top in 1917, it did not end the reprinting of the Merriwell stories. The earlier numbers were still highly popular, and when the publisher's stocks of the Medal and Tip Top remaining on hand began to get low the demand was still so strong that Street & Smith, in 1920, started reprinting at two-week intervals the 243 Merriwell numbers that had appeared in the Medal. These new reprints were titled The Merriwell Series, which, due to some necessary shuffling of the early issues as described later in this article, eventually totaled 245 numbers. When the Merriwell Series came to an end in 1930 still another reprinting at two-week intervals was commenced, this time under the name of The Burt L. Standish Library, which became The Merriwell Library with No. 42. To the best of my knowledge the Merriwell Library stopped with No. 73, and its publication was never resumed. By that time the Great Depression was with us and the fifteen cents required to buy an issue of the Merriwell Library was no doubt needed for more essential things by most of its readers, which may be the chief reason why the systematic reprinting of the Merriwell stories ceased with Merriwell Library No. 73.

Now, it is an interesting and often irritating fact that it seems to be impossible to reprint stories without making changes in the original text. When admitted to by the reprinters such changes are referred to as "improvements", and usually consist of cutting out portions of the story as previously published. Just why, if a story is good enough to justify reprinting, it at the same time always seems to be faulty enough to require

more or less surgery, is no doubt a valuable trade secret of the publishing business. It is probably unimportant to the censors that their reducing techniques invariably bring outcries from critics who prefer their stories as originally written, who bitterly point out that trimming the content of the first edition when reprinting is mainly for the purpose of lowering the cost of reproduction, and that if any "improvements" are thus effected no one but the publishers benefit therefrom. But if their disagreement with such methods gets them nowhere with publishing houses, it is a good guess that the opinions of these malcontents on the subject carry influence elsewhere, and may be responsible for the distaste with which reprints are regarded by many readers and collectors, accounting to a large extent for the desire for first editions.

The reprints of Tip Top in the Medal Library were considerably "improved" in the manner described above. A great many were thus manicured, the material removed ranging from a few sentences, a paragraph, or a chapter, up to entire stories. The reasons for some of the omissions are fairly obvious, such as the dropping of Tip Top 44, which contained a story based on gambling and other unconventional diversions of Yale students and was therefore probably considered improper reading for the supposedly genteel clientele of the Medal Library. But for many other omissions of complete Tip Tops the same criticism hardly applies, since the college stories of the later issues thus left out were chaste enough, even by the lofty standards prevailing in those days.

To the collector or reader of Merriwelliana who has only a file of reprints instead of originals it is reason for mourning that such a considerable number of Merriwell stories were thus dropped in their entirety when the reprinting was done, and have never appeared except in the original Tip Tops. Among the more lamentable of these instances was the omission of the entire run of Tip Top

from No. 33 to 39, inclusive, seven of the most interesting of the Merriwell tales, which related Frank's amazing adventures in Armenia, Japan, Ceylon, India, Australia and the South Seas. Another run that was never reprinted consisted of Tip Top 670 to 679, most of which were stories of college life at Yale, although some of them, containing the beginning of Bruce Browning's tragic love affair with Otero Alamogoro, and his proposal to and acceptance by that beautiful and unfortunate charmer, were placed in the wild West. Still another run was omitted, but it was relatively unimportant, since it consisted of Tip Top 824 through 830, which were themselves crude reprints, or rather, rewrites, of some of the stories of Frank's early days at Yale, with the names of all the characters changed, but with the original plot and action retained or rearranged to permit the inclusion of references to Dick Merriwell, the new coach at Yale. Many single issues were also left out, and in all 36 complete Tip Tops were never reprinted. This figure does not include the 18 Owen Clancy tales in New Tip Top, which appeared in six issues of the New Medal Library as described elsewhere in this article, but were left out of the Merriwell Series and later reprints.

Some details of how the original Tip Top stories that were reprinted suffered in the process of reproduction may be interesting, so a few instances will be discussed at this point.

Medal No. 205 cut out entirely that part of Chapter 1 of Tip Top No. 41 which contained dialogue between Puss Parker and Punch Swallows describing the manner in which Frank Merriwell turned the tables on a hazing party at East Rock. Also omitted was practically all of the opening chapter of Tip Top No. 42, thus leaving out some interesting stuff about Frank's enemies, Gordan, Hartwick and Ditson. In this issue, too, appeared a reference to the Salvation Army organ, The War Cry, which the Medal changed to "a Sun-

day School paper." And entirely eliminated from Tip Top No. 46 when reprinted in the Medal and later reprints was the rather hot love scene in Chapter 7 between Frank and Winnie Lee. That is, it was hot for the year 1897 when it occurred, but it probably wouldn't raise many blood pressures today. This omission was really too bad, as those two, in a nice way, of course, put on a pretty good show for that restrained era, one never equalled in a Merriwell tale by Patten before or after. It was almost as good as anything produced by Bertha M. Clay or Laura Jean Libbey at their sentimental best, and of particular interest to Merriwell addicts since Patten usually hit only the high spots, so to speak, in writing of love between the sexes, a subject soft-pedaled in those days by authors of stories for younger readers.

The above examples are only a few of many such instances of story-trimming. It would almost seem as though a certain number of pages were allotted in advance to each issue of the Medal, and a certain number of Tip Tops had to be contained in those pages even though, to accomplish it, important parts of the original stories had to be left out. It is possible that portions of the tales may have been scissored because of a desire to "tone them down" somewhat in order to bring them up to the standards of the less sensational Medal, for, innocuous as they seem today, some of those early Tip Tops were thought to be too unrefined for the gentle readers of that virtuous age, which glorified such angelic characters as Rollo and Little Lord Fauntleroy. But that can't be the complete answer, because much of the material deleted was inoffensive enough by any standards.

Extensive shuffling of the text was sometimes done. For instance, in Medal No. 209 half of Chapter 9 and all of the next four chapters of Tip Top No. 47 were withdrawn from that story and tacked on at the end of Tip Top No. 48, the last in the book, as though the reprinter had at first intended to leave them out altogether,

but finally found room for them at the end.

Apparently even the reprinting of reprints can't be done without cutting out some of the material, as the Merriwell Series, which usually was made up with 250 to 325 pages in larger type than the Medal, had to do considerable knifing of the early Medal versions of Tip Top in order to reprint book for book with the Medal. For instance, Merriwell Series No. 1 started off, when reprinting Medal Library No. 150, by knocking out the ten pages from the Medal story that included the last part of Chapter 48 and all of Chapter 49 of that book, containing the account of the attempt by Leslie Gage to skewer Merriwell in a fencing bout with a sharpened foil from which the safety button had been removed, a very interesting and exciting chapter. It is amusing to note in this connection that the reprinting experts overlooked a reference to the doctored foil that appeared in Chapter 50, and it duly appeared therein to confuse the reader of that particular issue of the Merriwell Series.

Another cut wiped out the last chapter of Tip Top No. 52, which appeared in Medal Library 213, but was dropped from Merriwell Series No. 12. And still another interesting example of reprinting techniques was what happened to Chapter 7 of Tip Top No. 65. The Medal printed it in Chapter 33 of No. 229, but the Merriwell Series in their No. 16 cut out the 18 pages of that chapter entirely. No. 233 of Medal was also sliced down to make No. 17 of Merriwell Series come out with the right number of pages.

It would fill many issues of the Roundup to detail all the scissoring of Tip Top Weekly that occurred when they were reprinted into the Medal Library, and many more to list the further indignities suffered by the stories when the Medal versions were reprinted into the Merriwell Series, so the few instances given must suffice.

Several of the numbers between 205 and 229 of the Medal Library were catalogued by the publishers as "double numbers", which was some-

what misleading, as these issues contained the same number of Tip Tops as the Medals which preceded them. However, the publishers achieved a bulkier book by printing more of the material from the Tip Tops, and by using larger type than in preceding issues, all of which necessitated a greater number of pages than in the eight previous Merriwell reprints. In reprinting the Tip Tops the Medal Library used in its "double numbers" about 375 pages as a rule, although some of them carried more. All other numbers usually consisted of 240 to 275 pages, and contained the greater part of three Tip Tops, or more abbreviated versions of four.

The first 24 issues of Medal containing Tip Tops, which included the "double numbers", each carried reprints of four of the weeklies and sometimes more than 400 pages. The Merriwell Series, by cutting down on the Medal material, got the first 32 issues of Tip Top into their first 8 numbers as the Medal had done, but the "double numbers" of the Medal evidently were too much to handle in that manner without seriously affecting the continuity of the stories, so 8 issues of Merriwell Series were required to copy the next 6 Medals. The two extra issues became necessary because of the situation which developed when No. 9 of Merriwell Series could not take all the material contained in No. 205 of Medal, and had to carry No. 43 of Tip Top over into Merriwell Series No. 10. With more of the same trouble in prospect for the next few issues, the reprinters continued to trim the contents, meanwhile using only three Tip Tops to each Merriwell Series as against four used by the Medals, until they had accumulated enough additional material to get out an extra issue. This was No. 12 of Merriwell Series, titled "Frank Merriwell's Party." A little later more surplus material was accumulated in the same manner, and published as Merriwell Series No. 16, "Frank Merriwell's Alarm." Neither of these titles appeared in the Medal Library, although the material contained in

them did, and this explanation may be of value to some collectors who have supposed that the Merriwell Series had added two numbers in order to print some of the Tip Tops left out of the Medal Library.

After No. 229 of the Medal Library was assimilated, the issues of the Merriwell Series managed to coincide much better with those of the Medals, but this improvement was accomplished by leaving out some of the contents of the Medals, which themselves had already left out quite a lot of the contents of the original Tip Tops, so the final result was a much abridged version of the Merriwell tales as first written. The earlier issues of the Merriwell Series were the worst, however, at leaving out pertinent material.

49 issues of the Merriwell Series contained three Tip Tops each, and trimming of these Tip Tops was probably not so considerable as in the 195 issues into each of which four Tip Tops were poured. One issue, No. 107, had five numbers of Tip Top, 409 through 413, reresented. Needless to say the representation was sketchy.

The Medal Library used fairly appropriate and descriptive titles and subtitles for their reprints of Tip Top, but the Merriwell Series changed many of these, especially the subtitles, substituting such Horatio Algerish gems among the latter as *Tried and True*, *Right Makes Might*, *Never Say Die*, and *The Power of a Good Example*.

The covers, of course, were paper on both Medal and Merriwell Series, and usually carried a picture in colors illustrating an incident in the story. However, the Medal Library used the same stock cover on several of their early issues, one in particular portraying a noble youth of earnest mein in short pants with a book in his hand. This ultra-conservative cover was probably a smooth gesture aimed at vigilant and critical parents and other guardians of adolescent morals in the late nineties, (who, it might be remarked, are much more urgently needed nowadays than then) who were inclined to judge the con-

tents of a book by its cover. In addition, the use of the same cover picture for a number of issues reduced the printing costs, a detail that would certainly never be overlooked by the astute firm of Street & Smith.

The Burt L. Standish Library and Merriwell Library used the same cover illustrations and the same plates for the text as the Merriwell Series, and sold for the same price, fifteen cents.

There remains one more rather interesting fact that should be mentioned in this narrative, since it concerns what seems to have been a short-lived and sporadic attempt to resume the printing of the Merriwell stories after the demise of the New Medal Library. Following the end of that publication, and prior to the appearance of the Merriwell Series, there were several issues by Street & Smith of The Merriwell Football Stories and The Merriwell Baseball Stories. They were reprints of certain numbers of the New Medal Library, and little is known about them. They were not advertised by the publishers, they were not dated, and there were

apparently not more than a dozen titles printed. Evidently they did not attain wide circulation. A few copies are owned by collectors today, but to the best of my knowledge no one has a complete file. They probably should be regarded as curiosities instead of a serious attempt to resume the reprinting of the Merriwell tales. Perhaps they were the fruit of another idea by Street & Smith, one that, in spite of their demonstrated ability to come up with winners, failed to click.

Following are the numbers of the Tip Tops which were never reprinted: 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 44, 61, 66, 82, 549, 619, 664, 665, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 708, 709, 710, 711, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, and 830.

The table following shows how the reprinting of the Merriwell stories was carried out. Column 1 lists the Tip Tops and New Tip Tops by numbers, Column 2 the Medal and New Medal Library by numbers, and Column 3 the Merriwell Series, Merriwell Library and Burt L. Standish Library by numbers. The issues in Column 1 were reprinted into those shown opposite in Columns 2 and 3:

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1 to 4	150	1	111 to 113	276	28	190 to 192	368	52
5 to 8	167	2	114 to 116	280	29	193 to 196	371	53
9 to 12	178	3	117 to 119	284	30	197 to 200	374	54
13 to 16	184	4	120 to 122	288	31	201 to 204	377	55
17 to 20	189	5	123 to 125	292	32	205 to 208	380	56
21 to 24	193	6	126 to 129	296	33	209 to 212	383	57
25 to 28	197	7	130 to 132	300	34	213 to 216	386	58
29 to 32	201	8	133 to 135	304	35	217 to 220	389	59
40 to 43	205	9-10	136 to 138	308	36	221 to 224	392	60
45 to 48	209	10-11	139 to 141	312	37	225 to 228	395	61
49 to 52	213	11-12	142 to 144	316	38	229 to 232	398	62
53 to 56	217	12-14	145 to 147	320	39	233 to 236	401	63
57 to 60	225	14-15	148 to 150	324	40	237 to 240	404	64
62 to 65	229	15-16	151 to 153	328	41	241 to 244	407	65
67 to 70	233	17	154 to 157	332	42	245 to 248	410	66
71 to 74	237	18	158 to 160	336	43	249 to 252	413	67
75 to 78	240	19	161 to 164	340	44	253 to 256	416	68
79-80-81-83	244	20	165 to 167	344	45	257 to 260	419	69
84 to 87	247	21	168 to 170	348	46	261 to 264	422	70
88 to 91	251	22	171 to 174	352	47	265 to 268	425	71
92 to 95	254	23	175 to 178	356	48	269 to 272	428	72
96 to 99	258	24	179 to 182	359	49	273 to 276	431	73
100 to 103	262	25	183 to 186	363	50	277 to 280	434	74
104 to 107	267	26	187 to 189	367	51	281 to 284	437	75
108 to 110	271	27						

285 to 288	440	76	513-14-18-19	611	133	752 to 755	748	190
289 to 292	443	77	520-4-5-6	614	134	756 to 759	750	191
293 to 296	446	78	516-17-21-22	617	135	760 to 763	752	192
297 to 300	449	79	523-7-8-9	620	136	764 to 767	754	193
301 to 304	452	80	530 to 532	623	137	768 to 771	756	194
305 to 308	455	81	533 to 536	626	138	772 to 775	758	195
309 to 312	458	82	537 to 540	629	139	776 to 779	760	196
313 to 316	461	83	541 to 544	632	140	780 to 783	762	197
317 to 320	464	84	545 to 548	635	141	784 to 787	764	198
321 to 324	467	85	550 to 553	638	142	788 to 791	766	199
325 to 328	470	86	554 to 557	641	143	792 to 795	768	200
329 to 332	473	87	558 to 561	644	144	796 to 799	770	201
333 to 336	476	88	562 to 564	647	145	800 to 803	772	202
337 to 340	479	89	565 to 567	650	146	804 to 807	774	203
341 to 344	482	90	568 to 571	653	147	808 to 711	776	204
345 to 348	485	91	572 to 575	656	148	812 to 815	778	205
349 to 352	488	92	576 to 579	659	149	816 to 819	780	206
353 to 356	491	93	580 to 583	662	150	802 to 823	782	207
357 to 360	494	94	584 to 587	665	151	831 to 834	784	208
361-3-5-7	497	95	588 to 591	668	152	835 to 838	786	209
362-4-6-8	500	96	592 to 595	671	153	839 to 842	788	210
369-71-3-5	503	97	596 to 598	674	154	843 to 846	790	211
370-2-4-6	506	98	599 to 601	677	155	847 to 850	792	212
377 to 380	509	99	602 to 604	680	156	NEW TIP TOP		
381 to 384	512	100	605 to 607	682	157	1 to 4	794	213
385 to 388	515	101	608 to 610	684	158	5 to 8	796	214
389 to 392	518	102	611 to 614	686	159	9 to 12	798	215
393 to 396	521	103	615 to 618	688	160	13 to 16	800	216
397 to 400	524	104	620 to 623	690	161	17 to 20	802	217
401 to 404	527	105	624 to 627	692	162	21 to 24	804	218
405 to 408	530	106	628 to 631	694	163	25 to 28	806	219
409 to 413	533	107	632 to 635	696	164	29 to 32	808	220
414 to 417	536	108	636 to 639	698	165	33 to 36	810	221
418 to 421	539	109	640 to 643	700	166	37 to 40	812	222
422 to 425	542	110	644 to 647	702	167	41 to 44	814	223
426 to 429	545	111	648 to 651	704	168	45 to 48	816	224
430 to 433	548	112	652 to 655	706	169	49 to 52	818	225
434 to 437	551	113	656 to 659	708	170	53 to 56	820	226
438 to 441	554	114	660 to 663	710	171	57 to 60	822	227
442-3-7-8	557	115	666 to 669	712	172	61 to 64	824	228
444-5-6-50	560	116	680 to 683	714	174	65 to 68	826	229
449-53-4-5	563	117	684 to 687	716	173	69 to 72	828	230
451-2-9-60	566	118	688 to 691	718	175	73 to 76	830	231
456-7-8-62	569	119	692 to 695	720	176	95 to 97	844	232
461-5-6-7	572	120	696-97-702-3	722	178	98 to 100	846	233
463-4-8-9	575	121	698 to 701	724	177	101 to 103	847	234
470 to 473	578	122	704 to 707	726	179	104 to 106	848	235
474 to 477	581	123	712 to 715	728	180	107 to 109	849	236
482 to 485	584	124	716 to 719	730	181	110 to 112	850	237
478 to 481	587	125	720 to 723	732	182	113 to 115	851	238
486 to 489	590	126	724 to 727	734	183	116 to 118	852	239
490 to 493	593	127	728 to 731	736	184	119 to 121	853	240
494 to 497	596	128	732 to 735	738	185	122 to 124	854	241
498 to 501	599	129	736 to 739	740	186	125 to 127	855	242
502 to 505	602	130	740 to 743	742	187	128 to 130	856	243
506-7-8-12	605	131	744 to 747	744	188	131 to 133	857	244
509-10-11-15	608	132	748 to 751	746	189	134 to 136	858	245

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

Last September, as you will recall, there was an article in the Round-up about Broncho Charlie Miller and our great inventor Grandpaw G. Fred Orphal. In the Dec. 31st issue of the Glens Falls Times there was a full page article by Charlie Duprez. They had a photo of the one where Charlie Miller was holding the coat as used on the Round-up cover. As sad as it is to relate, both have passed to the great beyond. Broncho Charlie Miller on January 15, 1955 after a short illness and G. Fred Orphal on February 14, 1955 in his sleep. May their souls rest in peace.

Mr. W. O. G. Lofts of 42 Ashbridge St., St. Marylebone, London N. W. 8, England is trying to locate some English periodicals once owned by a Mr. Walter Dexter who died a few years ago. The periodicals were supposed to have been sold in America during the last war. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mr. Dexter's collection is asked to contact Mr. Lofts.

Mr. Lofts is also looking for information on a group of men who call themselves "The Sexton Blake Fakirs." This group was mentioned in Bill Gander's Story Paper Collector #42 for April 1952.

Oh, what a day this is, the day after the 1st day of spring. Yesterday wasn't so hot either, wet snow, and today rain—and did it come down.

Bill Langell sent in from the San Francisco Chronicle of Feb. 13, 1955. "The Dalton Brothers" By an eye witness, New York. Pub. by Frederick Fell, Inc. 251 pages \$3.50. This was first published about mid-November, 1892, a two-bit thriller designed to capitalize on the ill-starred effort by the Dalton Brothers to rob two banks at the same time in Coffeyville, Kansas. It has acquired "old and rare" status in the interim and is here reprinted exactly as the firm of Laird and Lee first did the job.

Ken Daggett says now that spring is here, he is going back to carpentering again. Says he has lots and lots of work to do.

Charles Duprez received a letter last fall from a feller by the name of Mason, from up in Cleverdale, N. Y., who 50 years ago was quite chummy with Broncho Charlie. He read Charles Duprez story in the Times, and as the paper mentioned friend Duprez's name as writer and Smithtown address, he wrote to Charlie as to how he enjoyed it, bringing back many of his memories. He sure must be old, if he knew Charlie Miller 50 years ago who was 105 on the 1st of January. Maybe Mr. Mason is 110, who knows.

Beny Tighe and wife have returned home from their trip to Florida.

Just discovered that Wide Awake Library #1171, Clear the Track Tom, or The Youngest Engineer on the Road, by Albert J. Booth, is a Jesse James story. So as a fellow says, you can't tell what kind of stories there is in Wide Awake, until you get them yourself.

I see we've lost another member—John J. Corell, died October 20, 1954. He was the publisher of "Ye Occasional Idler," that he brought out every year. We are all going to miss John very much. John was at one time an amateur paper collector, and had a fine collection.

Benoni Moore, 77, for many years the editor of the old "Youths Companion," died Dec. 30th, 1954, at Woodstock, Vermont.

Who has No. 44 of the New York Detective, to sell or trade. Write to editor of this column, for cash or trade—how much?

Edward Doorne of Charleston, W. Va., has had some pretty tough luck. In December 1953 he and his wife went to Florida. In March 1954 his wife became ill, so they had to come back to Charleston. Since they had sold their home, they moved around some. Ed developed two cataracts, and had to sell his newsstand—all his paper backed novels went with it. The new buyer gathered up 4 or 5 thousandd of them, and a couple of thousand Nat. Geographic mags, old ones, and had them hauled off to the junk yard. Guess that buyer must of thought those old timers were worth-

less. He should of inquired around some.

Mr. Joe Ambruster, the gentleman of bicycle fame just became the great grandfather of a baby girl.

Banner Weekly, Vol. XI, No. 537, Feb. 25, 1893. Has almost a full page article on Col. Prentiss Ingraham, with a fine large picture of himself in the middle of page 5. It is Col. Ingraham's 4th Letter. "In the Saddle with Buffalo Bill through the Treeless Land." No. 536. Has a large picture of Buffalo Bill in the middle of the 5th page.

The Banner Weekly, Vol. 7. No. 345 June 22, 1889, appeared "Death of Capt. Frederick Whittaker—who died by the accidental discharge of his revolver on Monday, May 13, 1889, at his residence in Mt. Vernon, N. Y." Also in above paper, gives a notice of "Died at Cooperstown, New York, on Monday night, May 13th, 1889. Mary A., wife of Erastus F. Beadle, in her 67th year."

Banner Weekly Vol. 8, No. 369, Dec. 7th, 1889, an interesting chapter in American Literary History. Shows a letter written by Capt. Mayne Reid, of selling the copyright and story, "The White Squaw," for \$700.00 to Beadle & Co., of New York, with a fine article and a poem on "Our Literature."

Banner Weekly, Vol. 8, No. 368, Nov. 30, 1889. Has a fine picture and a long story to go with it, on Erastus Beadle. After a busy life of 50 years in the various branches of publishing and book making, Mr. E. F. Beadle, the senior member of the firm of Beadle & Adams, retires from active business, disposing of his interest to his partner, Mr. William Adams. While Mr. Beadle will retain his desk in the office, where he can occasionally be seen, his time will be largely spent in his native village, at Cooperstown, N. Y., at which place he has large interests. David Adams died Oct. 1st, 1886.

The next issue will contain "The Greatest Sleuth That Ever Lived", by J. Edward Leithead.

QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN

There hasn't been much activity in this column for quite a while. How about some questions?

Mr. Wallace H. Waldrop asks the following: Who was the author of the Young Wild West stories?

Bob Smeltzer writes that something funny struck him all of a sudden, so here it is:

We, as boys, went to school to learn to read and write.

Bob asks, "I wonder if some of them did not have a "Reade" or a "Wright" in their geography?"

WAS JESSE JAMES "METICULOUS"?

As rough a character as he was, seeing the cobwebs around the picture on the wall, he got a duster to make things look more presentable; and then?

—Bob Smeltzer

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

134. Col. Richard Gimbel, Yale University Station, New Haven, Conn. (New Address)
192. Daniel A. Driscoll, 5 Gates Av., Brooklyn, N. Y. (New member).
193. W. O. G. Lofts, 42 Ashbridge St., St. Marylebone, London N.W. 8, England (New Member).
194. Ernest E. Metler, Box 145, Tivoli, N. Y. (Old Member).
195. I. S. Seidman, 505 5th Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. (Old mem.)

(Advertisements)

EXCHANGE COLUMN

For Exchange. The Wreck of the Grosvenor by W. Clark Russell, cloth, fine condition, for 2 nice Nick Carters or Diamond Dicks below #500. Robert H. Smeltzer, 3432 No. Bodine St., Phila., Pa.

Wanted. Pluck and Luck #206. Will trade or pay cash. Howard J. Fahrer, 789 St. Paul St., Rochester 5, N. Y.

For exchange—George at the Wheel for George at the Fort or Ben's Nugget by Alger. S. B. Condon, Sq. Penobscot, Maine.

DOES A READER KNOW THESE?

To the Editor of the
Evening Public Ledger:

Sir— About forty-five years ago, there was published in the Boys of New York, a comic serial entitled, "Skinny, the Tin Peddler". Would be glad to learn if any of your readers can tell if this story was ever published in book form, and where it might be obtained.

Also in the Young Men of America, about the same time, there was a comic serial entitled "Shorty in Search of His Dad." Information about this one, also would be appreciated.

If I have gotten the publications mixed up, no doubt some "Old Timer" will straighten me out.

Philadelphia, April 2, 1924.

Old Curiosity.

Sent in by Bob Smeltzer.

HONESTY PAYS: Bob Smeltzer relates that in running through old correspondence he came across an incident. He had sent a Hawthorne item to a Mr. John A. Hayes, of Red Bank, N. J., in a swap deal. His letter of October 19, 1936, states "You under-swapped on the Hawthorne item; obscure, sure, but it hits the spot with me, as a collectors' item, so please make an additional \$5.00 selection from my novel list."

Now isn't that something FINE?

Bob says that this late date he cannot recall the nature of the "Hawthorne" item.

DIME NOVEL DOPE:

Ever think of the fact that three Cobb's were interested in dime-novels?

Remember (you old codgers) Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., who wrote thrillers for the New York Weekly and other publications of that era.

Weldon J. Cobb, who starred in "Golden Hours" serials.

Irvin S. Cobb, who wrote a little book on "Old Cap Collier". I had it once 'pon a time, but it, somehow, got away from me.

Bob Smeltzer

PUBLICATIONS OF FRANK LESLIE

How many of these do you have? I can supply single issues, long runs, bound volumes. Some are very scarce and I do not have many; others are in stock in good quantity. Offered subject to prior sale. Will be glad to correspond with interested parties, without obligation.

FRANK LESLIE'S

Once a Week
Popular Library (Boys)
Popular Monthly
New Family Magazine
Ladys' Magazine
New York Journal
Chimney Corner
Chatterbox (Boys)
New World
Young America (Boys)
Young American (Boys)
Amusing Adventures (Boards. Boys)
Budget of Fun
Boys and Girls Weekly (Boys)
Boys' Magazine (Boys)
Boys of America (Boys)
Fact and Fiction
Beitung (In German)
Illustrated Weekly Newspaper
Weekly
Pleasant Hours
Great Eastern Steamship Pictorial
Sunday Magazine

RALPH P. SMITH

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.